Customs duty on Petrochemicals

183. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that huge investments of public and financial institutions have gone into establishing projects manufacuring DMT/PTA/MEG/ Paraxylene etc., by public sector undertakings like IPCL and Bongaigaon Refinery Limited etc.;

(b) whether it is a fact that these public sector units have established adequate capacities to meet the demand and have accumulated huge stocks of their products because of deep recession in the consuming industries;

(c) whether it is also a fact that customs duty relief on petrochemicals is likely to push these public sector units to the wall and make them sick; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to safeguard the interests of these public sector undertakings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Public Sector Undertakings such as IPCL and Bongaigaon Refinery Ltd., have established projects for manufacturing DMT, MEG and Paraxylene.

(b) The established capacity of the Public Sector Units is not adequate to meet the demand. Government has no report that recession in certain consuming industries has resulted in any accumulation of stocks of these products.

(c) and (d) While fixing the rates of customs duty on petrochemicals, Government have taken note of all relevant factors including the interests of producing and consumnig industries and the need for rationalising the tariff.

Compensation to LIC Officers

184. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

whether while finalising the proposals for wage revision, pension scheme etc. for the work force of L.I.C., compensation at least on compassionate grounds will be extended to the small group of about 200 Class I Officers who retired between 1973 and 1983 without any revision of pay and are in dire economic circumstances ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration by Government to provide any compensation for those officers who retired during the period from 1973 to 1983.

Circulation of parallel action plan

185. SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that office bearers of the Gazetted Officers' Association, Income Tax Department, West Bengal, have been provided non-assessment charges, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that a parallel Action Plan was circulated by the All India Federation of Income Tax Gazetted Service Officers' Association and Income Tax Employees Federation as against the Action Plan approved and circulated by the Government calling upon its members to work according to their parallel Action Plan and not according to the Action Plan approved by the Government; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken in the matter ?